IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace the claims of record with the following full set of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of controlling function units of a motorcar, or of devices (1a, 1b) installed in a motorcar, by means of speech signals, the method comprising the steps of: ~~in which~~

receiving acoustic signals occurring in the motorcar, which contain noise signal portions that depend on the operating state and/or operation environment of the motorcar and speech signal portions, ~~as the case may be, are applied to a speech recognition system (3)~~, and

applying the received acoustic signals to a ~~the~~ speech recognition system (3), ~~uses~~ the speech recognition system using acoustic references (8) which are selected and/or adapted in dependence on ~~detected data of~~ estimated noise component introduced by the operating state and/or operation environment.

2. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized~~

~~in that~~ wherein acoustic basic references (20-1, ..., 20-n, 30-1 ... 30-n) are selected to be used for a speech pause modeling in dependence on the operating state and/or the operation environment of the motorcar.

3. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 2,
~~characterized~~

~~in that~~ wherein an adaptation is provided (22, 32-1, ... 32-n) of the selected acoustic basic references in dependence on the operating state and/or operation environment of the motorcar.

4. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1,
~~characterized~~

~~in that,~~ wherein for the speech pause modeling, acoustic basic references are combined (33) in dependence on the operating state and/or operation environment of the motorcar.

5. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized~~

~~in that,~~ further comprising the step of:

determining ~~data of~~ operating state and/or operation environment of the motorcar ~~are read~~ by reading from an on-board computer (11) of the motorcar and/or by means of one or more detectors (13) installed in the motorcar.

6. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized~~

~~in that, in~~ wherein ~~dependence on the detected data of the operating state and/or operation environment of the motorcar, those~~ parts of ~~the~~ a vocabulary (9) of the speech recognition system (3) are determined (13) that represent speech control signals that have their effect on the control of function units of the motorcar or on devices installed inside the motorcar.

7. (Currently amended) An arrangement for controlling function units of a motorcar, or of devices (1a, 1b) installed in a motorcar by means of speech signals, the arrangement comprising:

at least one microphone (2) for converting acoustic signals occurring in the motorcar, which acoustic signals contain noise signal portions that depend on the operating state and/or operation environment of the motorcar and, as the case may be, speech signal portions, and

a speech recognition system (3) coupled to the microphone (2) for recognizing speech signal portions of the acoustic signals, while acoustic references (8) used by the speech recognition system (3) are selected and/or adapted in dependence on ~~detected data of~~ estimated noise component introduced by the operating state and/or operation environment.

8. (Currently amended) A method of controlling a device via speech signals, in which

acoustic signals which contain noise signal portions that depend on the operating state of the device and/or the operation environment of the device and, as the case may be, speech signal portions, are applied to a speech recognition system and

the speech recognition system uses acoustic references which are selected and/or adapted in dependence on ~~detected data of~~ estimated noise component introduced by the operating state and/or operation environment of the device.

9. (Currently amended) An arrangement comprising a device controllable via speech signals, in which

acoustic signals which contain noise signal portions that depend on the operating state and/or the operation environment of the device and, as the case may be, speech signal portions, are applied to a speech recognition system and

the speech recognition system uses acoustic references which are selected and/or adapted in dependence on ~~detected data of~~ estimated noise component introduced by of the operating state and/or operation environment of the device.